UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA

		<u>COURT REDACTED</u>
United States of America,)	
Plaintiff,	j	
VS.)	File No. 1:15-cr-183-3
Rae Ann Rodacker,	j	
Defendant.)	

TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING

Taken at United States Courthouse Bismarck, North Dakota May 7, 2018

BEFORE THE HONORABLE DANIEL L. HOVLAND
-- UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE --

APPEARANCES

MS. DAWN M. DEITZ U.S. Attorney's Office 220 E. Rosser Ave. P. O. Box 699 Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-0699

	FOR	THE	UNITED	STATES
MR. KERRY S. ROSENQUIST Rosenquist & Arnason, PLLP 301 North Third Street, Suite 300 Grand Forks, North Dakota 58203				
		FOR	THE DE	FENDANT
Certificate of Court Reporter - Page 31				

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(The above-entitled matter came before the Court, The
1
    Honorable Daniel L. Hovland, United States District Court
2
    Judge, presiding, commencing at 1:30 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2018,
3
    in the United States Courthouse, Bismarck, North Dakota,
                                                               The
4
    following proceedings were had and made of record in open court
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    with the defendant present:)
6
7
              THE COURT: We'll open the record in the case of
8
    United States of America versus Rae Ann Rodacker. Here on
9
    behalf of the federal government is Assistant U.S. Attorney
10
    Dawn Deitz. Representing the defendant is Attorney Kerry
11
    Rosenquist. Ms. Rodacker, how are you today?
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              THE DEFENDANT: As good as I can be, I guess.
13
              THE COURT: This is scheduled as a sentencing hearing
14
    on a drug conspiracy offense, actually three separate counts, a
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    conspiracy offense, possession with intent to distribute a
16
    controlled substance, and a money laundering conspiracy charge.
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              I have before today reviewed the Presentence
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19
    Investigation Report, the Government's Sentencing Memorandum
    and Supplement, the Defendant's Sentencing Memorandum, a number
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    of attachments and letters of support. I've also reviewed the
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    letters from medical professionals, particularly treating
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    physician at the University of Minnesota. Anything else that's
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    been filed?
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              MS. DEITZ: Not by the government, Your Honor.
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01:30

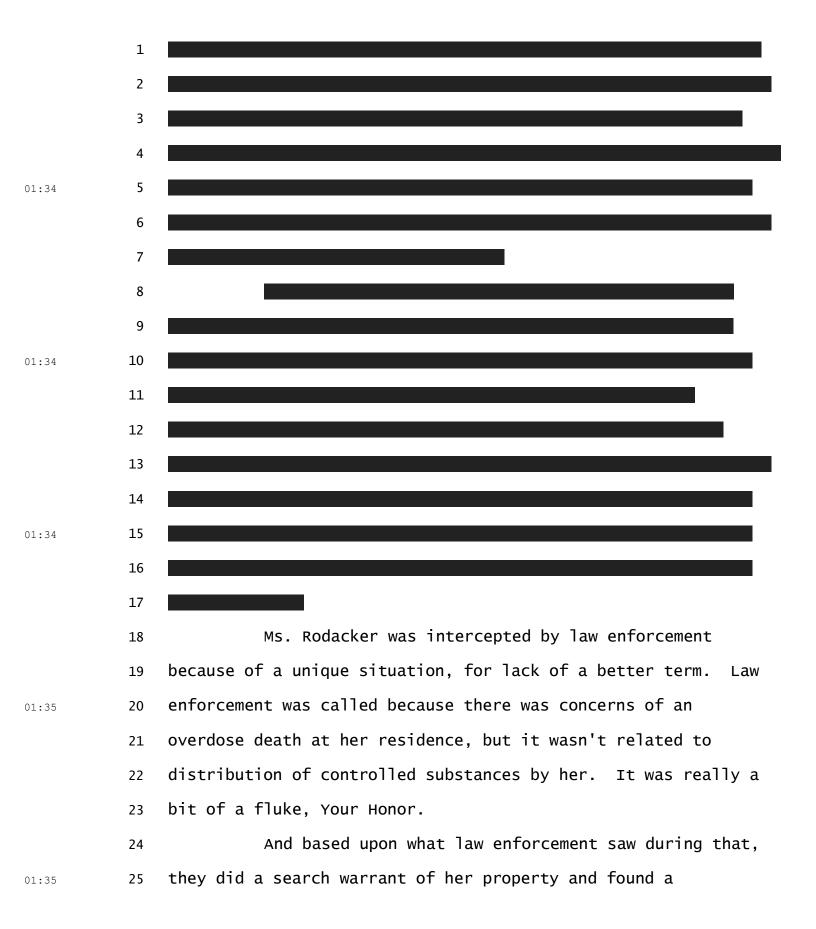
01:30

01:31

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MR. ROSENQUIST: Nothing, Your Honor. Thank you.
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                         THE COURT: All right. And, Ms. Rodacker, were you
            2
               given the opportunity to review the Presentence Investigation
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               Report?
            4
                         THE DEFENDANT:
                                          Yes.
            5
01:32
                         THE COURT: And you've discussed that with your
            6
               attorney?
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            8
                         THE DEFENDANT:
                                          Yes.
            9
                         THE COURT: Mr. Rosenquist, did you have any
               objections to anything that's contained in the Presentence
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01:32
               Report?
           11
                                           Nothing, Your Honor. My client
                         MR. ROSENQUIST:
           12
               tells me since this was prepared in April of last year, she has
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               moved, but I don't know that that's substantive, and certainly
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               the pretrial services officer would know about it. And I don't
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01:32
               need -- I don't think it needs to be updated today for obvious
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               reasons.
           17
                         THE COURT:
                                      Ms. Deitz, did you have any objections?
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                         MS. DEITZ:
                                      No, Your Honor. Thank you.
           19
                         THE COURT:
                                      Are there any witnesses that intend to
01:32
           20
               testify here today?
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                                      None from the government, Your Honor.
           22
                         MS. DEITZ:
                                           None, Your Honor. Thank you.
           23
                         MR. ROSENQUIST:
                         THE COURT: All right. Then I will give both sides
           24
               an opportunity to outline their recommendations for a sentence.
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01:32
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		And when the attorneys are done, Ms. Rodacker, I in give you an
	2	opportunity to speak as well, as I'm required to do. Ms.
	3	Deitz.
	4	MS. DEITZ: Thank you, Your Honor. The defendant
1:33	5	pled guilty to Counts 1, 2 and 3; Counts 1 and 2 being drug
	6	charges, and Count 3 being a money laundering charge. That's
	7	outlined until the PSIR. We're dealing with an adjusted
	8	offense level of 31, criminal history category score of II,
	9	which gives us a guideline range of 121 to 151 months. Count 1
1:33	10	does carry a 120-month minimum mandatory.
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	There have been some continuations of this sentencing
1:33	15	due to health issues of Ms. Rodacker. And, of course, the
	16	government didn't object to that because we felt it was
	17	
	Δ1	appropriate for her to get the treatment that she needs while
	18	appropriate for her to get the treatment that she needs while on the outside.
1:33	18	on the outside.
1:33	18 19	on the outside. But, nonetheless,
1:33	18 19 20	on the outside. But, nonetheless, and we are recommending one-third off the low end of
1:33	18 19 20 21	on the outside. But, nonetheless, and we are recommending one-third off the low end of the guideline range, that being 80 months incarceration, five
1:33	18 19 20 21 22	on the outside. But, nonetheless, and we are recommending one-third off the low end of the guideline range, that being 80 months incarceration, five years of supervised release to follow and the applicable



did speak about those facts and circumstances to law

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substantial amount of methamphetamine. And again, law -- she

enforcement during her proffer. And that search warrant is 3 what comes about from Count 2. 4 5 01:35 6 7 Thank you. 8 9 THE COURT: Mr. Rosenquist. MR. ROSENQUIST: Thank you, Your Honor. As the Court 01:35 10 is well aware, my client suffers from a variety of maladies. 11 She's got cystic fibrosis. She's had a double lung transplant, 12 and that was just days before her sentencing date that was 13 scheduled back in November of last year. Since that date --14 well. excuse me. Prior to that date she also had some diet --15 01:36 diabetes problems and which she still has today. 16 In preparation for the double lung transplant and 17 contrary to what law enforcement may think -- this is kind of a 18 19 fluke because it all happens at the same time. She had to have all of her teeth removed to prevent anything from being 01:36 20 impacted in the future which would probably cause her lungs to 21 be rejected. Oftentimes, as the Court well knows, people lose 22 their teeth when they're methamphetamine addicts. This was 23 entirely a different reason. It was a medical reason, so she's 24 got dentures as well. 25 01:37

Her medications cause osteoporosis. She's recently 1 had a fracture of the arm during a fall because of the 2 osteoporosis. Probably would not have happened but for the 3 fact that she's on these heavy medications. Her medications 4 cost upwards to several thousand dollars a day, over a million 5 01:37 dollars a year, and this will be continual for the rest of her 6 life. 7 The medications also, Your Honor, are not symbiotic. 8 They're not synergetic. Actually, they work opposite to one 9 They don't work to enhance one another. Some of the 10 01:37 drugs that are good for the osteoporosis are detrimental to the 11 lungs and the diabetes, and vice versa is also present. 12 drugs that are good for the lung transplant are not good for 13 the diabetes, not good for the osteoporosis. 14 That is why these time-release drugs are so critical 15 01:38 to be taken at the correct time. If they're not taken at the 16 correct time, if she misses a dose, she's in trouble. 17 Extensive lab work then has to be accomplished. She has to 18 19 virtually not start over again, but restart a regimen after she gets balanced out. 01:38 20 Today before she came here she had to have blood work 21 That is because she's got an abdominal port and it shows 22 signs of infection. Regardless of what the Court does today, 23 she has to have that abdominal port taken out very shortly, in 24 the very near future. If the Court does not require her to 25 01:39

report to some kind of an incarceration facility today, they 1 want her in Minneapolis as soon as she can get there for that 2 procedure. 3 Based on that, Your Honor, I would ask the Court to 4 look at the sentencing guidelines under 5H1.4. This isn't an 5 01:39 ordinary case. It is very extraordinary. I have not dealt 6 with a case like this in the 27 years I have been practicing 7 It seems to me that if ever a case was written that 5H1.4 8 were to apply to, it would be this case. 9 I don't know when she was 14 years old, that she had 10 01:40 the forethought to think of the future that she was going to be 11 She was rather rejected by pretty much everybody in today. 12 that she knows -- knew and loved at the time, and she had a 13 boyfriend that introduced her to the marvels of 14 methamphetamine. She found, much to her surprise, that it 15 01:40 helped her breathe, as the antihistamine part of 16 methamphetamine would probably do. However, as the Court 17 knows, it's extraordinarily addictive, and to support that 18 19 habit, she started selling. I was surprised, as I'm sure the Court was, at the 20 01:41 amount of money that she had in the safe and the amount of meth 21 she still had available. However, and as weird as it seems, 22 she was planning on going to get herself help utilizing the 23 money that she made from selling the methamphetamine so that 24 she could turn around and perhaps get the physical help she 25 01:41

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needed for the -- her cystic fibrosis, which would have been

the double lung transplant. 2 Almost luckily the law enforcement interjected, 3 arrested her, took away her ability to have any drugs, because 4 if she had started using again, she would have been right back 5 01:42 in prison or in jail awaiting her fate with the federal court 6 and probably would not have survived. 7 8 But she's here today with having had the double lung transplant, and if the Court reviewed Dr. Dunitz' letter, she's 9 still got some problems with the connections from the new lungs 10 01:42 to her brachial tubes. They have to be inflated periodically 11 with a balloon. It's a very invasive procedure. She's had it 12 done twice now, and she's probably going to have to have it 13 done a few times more. If that doesn't work, then a permanent 14 stent put in. The stent would require a lot more monitoring 15 01:43 because it looks like, you know, in past history the stent 16 would tend to get infected more than not having it. 17 still has a lot of problems. 18 19 And I believe Dr. Dunitz opined that the average length that a person lives with transplanted lungs is about ten 01:43 20 Now, the transplanted lungs did not end her cystic 21 fibrosis, Your Honor. She still has that. And, again, she has 22 diabetes, she has osteoporosis, and she's taking a lot of drugs 23 for all those. 24 What to do. If she is sentenced by this Court, the 25 01:43

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01:45

01:46

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- only possible place for her to go, because there's only one 1 federal medical center for women, that's in Carswell, Texas. 2 If she goes to Carswell, she can't go the circuitous route that 3 Air America sometimes takes people. They pick people up from 4 Cass County jail. They take them to Alabama, get some more 5 people, take them to Colorado, get some more people, end up in 6 Omaha, where they're -- I think they're there for two or 7 three weeks where they get indoctrinated, and then they go to 8 9 their facility. She probably wouldn't survive that because these different places won't have the medical personnel trained 10 for a double lung transplant. 11 That leaves only two options. That'd be a direct 12 flight down to Fort Worth area, and they do have -- I checked 13 on it. They do have a major facility down in the Dallas-Fort 14 worth area that does double lung transplants, so they would be 15 able to help her in case that she had any medical problems, so 16 a direct flight would probably be the best. 17 However, absent that, allowing her to self-report 18 would be second-best. I would ask the Court, though, to 19 consider at least until November, the one year time where her 20 medical team that knows her the best would be able to better 21 take care of her, not to have her go anywhere but back to her 22 own house until at least November and for whatever time after 23 that that the Court deems reasonable. 24
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Her meth-using days, meth-selling days, Your Honor,

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are over, and she knows that, and she fully embraces that.

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doesn't want to get into that cycle again. She's got so many
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               other health problems that meth is the least of her problems at
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               this particular point.
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                         So with that I'd ask that the Court not sentence her
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01:46
               any more -- to any more time than what Mr. Gallant received,
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               and I think he was -- received just a sentence of credit for
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               time served. And perhaps his -- his part in the conspiracy was
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            9
               a lot less culpable than my client's. However, again, she did
               not set out at age 14 to end up here today. Thank you, Your
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01:46
           11
               Honor.
                                     Thank you. So, Ms. Deitz, how do you
                         THE COURT:
           12
               read the letter from Dr. Dunitz from the University of
           13
               Minnesota concerning Ms. Rodacker's current medical issues?
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                                     Insofar as what, Your Honor?
                         MS. DEITZ:
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01:47
                                     Well, what does placement for 80 months
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                         THE COURT:
               in a federal prison do for somebody that's dealing with a
           17
               double lung transplant, along with complications associated
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           19
               with that procedure?
                         MS. DEITZ: Well, Your Honor, it's -- it's
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01:47
               concerning. It's -- I'm empathetic to the situation, but as
           21
               this Court is well aware -- I understand where Mr. Rosenguist
           22
               is coming with his argument insofar as 5H1.4, but since we're
           23
               dealing with the minimum mandatory and working down from there,
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               the Court can only consider the 3553(e) factors.
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01:47
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I'm fine with a self-surrender with regard to this
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               particular case given that she did cooperate in the beginning.
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                         I feel as though the government has been empathetic
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               from -- so far with her situation insofar as allowing the --
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               not objecting to the ongoing continuances in her case for her
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01:48
               to seek the medical treatment while on the outside and moving
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               forward with that medical treatment on the outside.
           7
               unfortunately, the law is what the law is.
           8
                                      Ms. Rodacker, I'm required to give you an
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                         THE COURT:
               opportunity to speak here today, as well as the attorneys. If
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01:48
               there's anything you would like to say, you're free to speak.
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               If you have any questions, you're --
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                         MR. ROSENQUIST: Before she has an opportunity, Your
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               Honor, if I may, Dr. Dunitz told me he was going to make
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               himself available until I called him up and told him otherwise.
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01:48
               If the Court would want any additional information from him, he
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               is standing by.
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                         THE COURT: All right. Ms. Rodacker, if there's
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           19
               anything you would like to say, you're free to speak.
                         THE DEFENDANT: I wrote a speech. Here's my speech
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01:49
               (indicating).
           21
                         THE COURT: If you could pull that microphone over a
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               little closer to you.
           23
                         THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, I just can't believe I'm even
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               here right now, so this is a lot. This is not -- it's not okay
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01:49
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that we all have to be here. I just want to apologize to 1 everyone that's here for the effect that I've had, and everyone 2 worked so hard to keep me alive. So I'm just ready to get 3 today over with and move on with fighting for my life with my 4 transplant and just being a mother, so --5 01:49 THE COURT: So where are you living now? 6 THE DEFENDANT: Right now I live in Valley City. 7 THE COURT: Okay. 8 THE DEFENDANT: I live --9 THE COURT: And where are you going for most of your 01:50 10 medical needs? 11 THE DEFENDANT: To the University of Minnesota in 12 Minneapolis. While I am there, I stay with my Aunt Pam. 13 lives in Minneapolis, so I'm back and forth. 14 So how long were you hospitalized after THE COURT: 15 01:50 this procedure in November of 2017? 16 THE DEFENDANT: I was hospitalized only for a month 17 in the hospital, and then they moved me to -- I moved into the 18 Argyle Apartments, which are specifically made for transplant 19 patients. The apartments are right on the campus, right across 01:50 20 from the clinic that I would have to go to every day, so then 21 every day after my transplant, for three months I would go to 22 the clinic for testing and all the other procedures that they 23 had. 24 And then I was allowed to start heading back to my 25 01:50

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home in January. They allowed me to start venturing far from

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the hospital.
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                         THE COURT: And what's the rate of rejection of
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               double lung transplants, according to the national data at
            4
               least?
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01:51
                         THE DEFENDANT: I don't -- I don't like to hear those
           6
               numbers.
                         I don't like to look at that. Compliancy with the
           7
               medication and treatment -- and I think every case is different
           8
               because I still have cystic fibrosis. Everybody's system -- I
           9
               take, you know, handfuls of enzymes before I eat to digest my
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01:51
               food. The enzymes affect the absorption of the transplant
           11
               medications, so there's still a lot of intestinal issues.
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                         what Dr. Dunitz has explained is that rejection comes
           13
               from infections, or there could be chronic rejection, which is
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               why I get bronchoscopies every other month, to test the
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01:52
               cellular level. It's just -- there's a lot. What they've told
           16
               me is that my best chance of survival is just be completely
           17
               compliant with, you know, getting tested every week, every day.
           18
                         Sometimes I'll -- like this morning I got tested.
           19
               Came here. Had to get that all set up here in Bismarck so I
01:52
           20
               could get my blood work done and sent back there. Well, then
           21
               my coordination team looks at the information. They will call
           22
               me back today, by the end of the day, to let me know, hey, you
           23
               need to change this medication, you need to change this, up
           24
               this dose.
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01:52
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THE COURT: The coordination team in Minneapolis?
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            2
                         THE DEFENDANT: Correct. Yep.
                         THE COURT:
                                     Okay.
            3
                                         I have a transplant coordinator who I
                         THE DEFENDANT:
            4
               talk to every other day. And then from that she'll say, okay,
            5
01:53
               we need you to get another lab done on Wednesday. And then
           6
               Wednesday, you know, they follow up. It's just -- and that's a
           7
           8
               weekly thing, the labs and following up with -- until my body
               regulates everything, and even at that they'll still want
           9
               monthly labs.
           10
01:53
                         THE COURT: So what have they said about your
           11
               condition of cystic fibrosis and how it impacts the new lungs?
           12
               I mean, you --
           13
                         THE DEFENDANT: The cystic fibrosis will not affect
           14
               the new lungs, okay? However, I still have cystic fibrosis in
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01:53
               my sinuses, and that's a problem because I have pseudomonas in
           16
               my sinuses, which I have a antibiotic-resistant strain of
           17
               pseudomonas, so it complicates it because the pseudomonas is
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               also aspergillus, which is a couple -- another infection that I
           19
               keep getting in my lungs.
           20
01:54
                         So basically, you know, we're -- we're still trying
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               to keep the bugs out of my lungs, my old CF bugs. If they
           22
               infect my lungs, which they have -- right after the transplant
           23
               I had pseudomonas in them. Then they hook me up to IV
           24
               antibiotics and, you know, IV medication to try to fight the
           25
01:54
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bacteria. 1 But, you know, I'm supposed to have a mask on when 2 I'm out in public, at Walmart or wherever. Here I didn't feel 3 I needed to wear my mask, but -- and, you know, I've got to 4 wash my hands. I have -- they make me carry a backpack with my 5 01:54 pills, my, you know, hand sanitizer, face masks just to avoid 6 infection. 7 My body is immunosuppressed, and it's been -- I've 8 dealt with medical complications for my whole life, but this is 9 -- I traded one disease, essentially, for a whole nother. You 01:55 10 know, it feels like routine of medication that, yes, you know, 11 it's -- it just seems like a lot yet. For me --12 THE COURT: So what difference have you felt in your 13 breathing, your normal, day-to-day, minute-to-minute breathing? 14 THE DEFENDANT: I can get up and shower and get 15 01:55 dressed, and I could not -- I couldn't do those things before 16 I was in bed. You know, I was on oxygen. I didn't even. 17 leave my -- I didn't leave my bed, so I can get up and 18 function. I still get tired, you know, very tired on things 19 that normal people don't really get tired, but I don't need my 01:55 20 I don't cough up as much mucus. I can -- I can 21 breathe without the oxygen, and --22 THE COURT: So who's all here in the courtroom on 23 your behalf today? 24

25

01:56

THE DEFENDANT: Quite a -- quite an array of people.

I have family. I have my biological dad. I have my Aunt Pam 1 and Uncle Jerry. I have my boyfriend and some friends from 2 church. I have my daughter and her biological dad and just 3 some close -- close family, friends. I have -- my step-dad is 4 My brother is here. 5 here. 01:56 THE COURT: So who do you live with in Valley City? 6 Myself. Now I live with myself. THE DEFENDANT: 7 THE COURT: In an apartment or in a house, or --8 THE DEFENDANT: I live in a house. Landlord in 9 Valley City, he has many places that he rents out. I live in 10 01:57 his basement. He rents out the basement of his house. It's a 11 very, very nice house. And given the fact that I am not able 12 to work yet, so I'm on disability and have a limited -- you 13 know, I can't rent -- and I'm also now a felon. Nobody, you 14 know, wants to rent to -- it's hard. 15 01:57 So this -- my landlord, yes, I live in the basement, 16 and the rent is what I can afford on my disability. He is --17 he's an older man that works all the time on his rental 18 properties, and obviously he knows about this whole situation. 19 He would be here if he, you know, didn't have to work all the 01:57 20 time, but he's --21 THE COURT: Are you able to drive? 22 THE DEFENDANT: I am able to drive, yep. 23 THE COURT: And you have a car? 24 THE DEFENDANT: I do have a car, yep. 25 01:58

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THE COURT: Anything else you wish to say?
           1
                         THE DEFENDANT: I -- I really -- I don't know. I'm
           2
               just ready to move on with -- you know, with the sentence. And
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               so much -- so much has changed since I was put on pretrial
           4
               supervision to now that -- you know, I didn't think I was going
            5
01:58
               to be even able to make it here. Like I was actually on my
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               death bed, so the Court has been very -- you know, I wouldn't
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           8
               -- I wouldn't be here hadn't they allowed me to get the
           9
               transplant. And what are the chances that I got the transplant
               and that I lived through it? I don't -- that is the grace of
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01:58
               God. That's not anything that I -- you know, that I have been
           11
               able to control, so --
           12
                         THE COURT: And you've been on release since December
           13
               of 2015?
           14
                         THE DEFENDANT:
                                         Correct.
           15
01:59
                         THE COURT: When's the last time that you used street
           16
               drugs?
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                         THE DEFENDANT: It will be November 31st of -- so
           18
               it's -- two-and-a-half years it's been. I have the app on my
           19
               phone that has the exact amount of days, but --
01:59
           20
                         THE COURT: November 30.
           21
                         THE DEFENDANT: November 30, correct.
           22
                         THE COURT: Of 2015?
           23
                         THE DEFENDANT: Yep.
           24
                         THE COURT: Anything else either counsel wished to
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01:59
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1
               say?
            2
                          MS. DEITZ:
                                       No, Your Honor. Thank you.
                                            Nothing.
                          MR. ROSENQUIST:
                                                       Thank you.
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            4
            5
01:59
            6
                          THE COURT:
                                      And there's a ten-year mandatory minimum
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            8
               on Count 1?
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                          MS. DEITZ:
                                       Correct, Your Honor.
           10
                          THE COURT:
                                       Five years on Count 2?
01:59
                          MS. DEITZ:
                                       Correct, Your Honor.
           11
           12
           13
           14
                          THE COURT: All right. Well, I've reviewed the
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02:00
                Presentence Investigation Report and the other materials that I
           16
               previously identified, all of which are incorporated by
           17
                reference into my judgment. We're dealing in this case with an
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           19
                offense level of 31, a criminal history category of II. The
                advisory guideline range is 121 to 151 months.
02:00
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02:00
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